

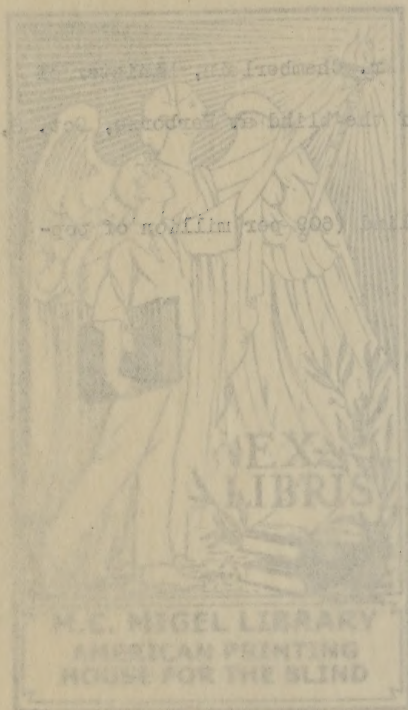
LE PROBLÈME DE LA PROTECTION
SOCIALE DES AVEUGLES
Jean Bronne

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HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**

1. France calculated that in 1911, there were in that country 25,470 blind, compared with 24,182 in 1901. But we have every reason to believe that this figure is actually less than the truth. Dr. Best gives the percentage of 706 blind per million of population, which gives 27,534 blind out of 39 million (population). To this we must add the number of war-blinded about 3500, which brings the number of the French blind to approximately 31,000.
2. England calculates 42,000 blind (speech of Mr. Chamberlain, Minister of Hygiene at the opening of the workshops of the blind at Harborne, Oct. 8, 1926).
3. Germany should calculate at least 40,000 blind (609 per million of population according to Dr. Best).
4. Belgium--2700
5. Italy--35,000
6. Spain--25,000
7. Switzerland--2360
8. Sweden--3400
9. Norway--2700
10. Denmark--1450
11. Holland--2500
12. Austria--4000
13. Czecho-Slovakia--5000
14. Greece--2400 (The statistics of this country indicate 1 blind person per thousand of population which is certainly less than the truth, 1908)
15. Roumania--15000 (1906)



16. Hungary--17,000

We have been unable to secure statistics for Portugal, JugO-Slavia, Bulgaria, Poland and Constantinople. Serious indications lead us to suppose that the blind must be numerous in those countries and we are certainly under-estimating them in establishing the figure in the proportion of 1 blind per thousand of population.

Russia in 1897 had 247,000 blind. In a recent review we read that the number of blind in Russia must be estimated at several hundreds of thousands.

There are more blind in Asia, outside of Siberia, which should be included in the Russian world. The approximate number of blind in China is not known; some believe that it does not exceed 1,000,000, Dr. Oward recently estimated it at 3,000,000 plus 6,000,000 who are blind in one eye. For India, the figure of 343,347 was given at the House of Commons in 1911. According to recent information there would seem to be 1,500,000 blind plus 5,000,000 of partially sighted.

Japan has 150,000 blind. Thus of all the three countries, China, India and Japan, we get the figure of 4,650,000. It can be estimated at 5,000,000 for the whole of Asia; given the numerous indications which show the frequency of blindness in the countries of Turkey, Arabia and Indo-China, about 1900, The number of blind in the Dutch colonies was estimated at 50,000.

As for America, the United States calculated according to the census of 1910, 57,272 blind and according to that of 1920, about 52,000. But there is a good reason to believe that in reality the number must exceed 60,000. Canada recorded approximately 3000 and Mexico 15,000. South American countries

have been unable to secure statistics for Portugal, USSR, Spain, and Constantinople. Several indications lead us to suppose that the blind must be numerous in those countries and to the contrary, indicating them in establishing the figure in the proportion of 1 blind per 10,000 of population.

Blacks in 1887 and 1897, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930. In a recent review we read that number of blind in Russia was estimated at several hundreds of thousands.

These are more blind in Asia, outside of Siberia, which should be included in the Russian world. The approximate number of blind in China

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1,000 for the whole of Asia; given the numerous indications which show the frequency of blindness in the countries of Turkey, Arabia and Indo-China.

1920. The number of blind in the Dutch colonies was estimated at 30,000. As for America, the United States calculated according to the census

1910, 57,578 blind and according to that of 1920, about 62,000. But there is good reason to believe that in reality the number must exceed 60,000.

There recorded approximately 3000 and 10000 in 1900. South American countries

should approach 200,000 if it does not exceed this figure. (Mr. Antonio Las Heras Hervas estimates 200,000 Spanish-speaking blind.)

Finally, without making any estimate as to the number of people blind in Australia, where the proportion should be relatively small, we come to Africa for which we have only indications though serious ones. If in addition, ^{to} the bad climate, the poor hygiene of the people, the slow progress of western civilization, we consider that Dr. Best gives the proportion of thirteen blind per thousand of population in Egypt, and that Dr. Petit who has studied the effects of trachoma in Tunisia (this disease affects 96% of the population in certain districts particularly in the south and causes a third of the blindness), we see that the proportion of blind must be large. Without speaking of Algeria and Morocco, which though they have no figures, are not free from blindness, let us mention the fact that formerly in the Soudan, one met the blind in crowds and also call attention to a letter from the Governor of French West Africa begging the mother country to interest itself in the numerous blind of this colony, and to bring to them the benefits of Western civilization.

These considerations lead us to state that the total number of blind in the world is close to 6,000,000 and that this is certainly a minimum.

Bronne, Jean--Le Problème de la Protection Sociale des Aveugles.
I^{ere} Partie, Chapitre II.

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